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March 29, 2021

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## Latest News

### **COVID Numbers Rising**

The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,009,554, with 25,039 new cases reported this week, a 24% increase over last week and an increase for the third week in a row. Across the state, 54 counties saw their weekly case increase, while 13 counties saw decreases.

The [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has increased for the second week in a row, from 1,554 to 1,856, a 19% increase. 366 of these patients are in an ICU, up from 320 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide increased for the second week in a row, from 194 to 203.

The highest growth in cases and hospitalizations is occurring in the eastern third of the commonwealth. Nationwide, the highest growth in [cases per 100,000 over the last seven days](#) is in New York City, New Jersey, and Michigan, with five New England states, New York State, and Pennsylvania (#7) rounding out the top 10.

After eight straight weeks of decline, the total deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania increased by 212 deaths reported this week, 5% more than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 24,986 leading to a 97.53% survival rate.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has increased for the second week in a row, from 6.5% to 7.6%. 17 counties now have rates of less than 5% (down from 21 last week), 34 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (down from 41 last week), and the remaining 16 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (up from five last week). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

**Important Reminder: CDL License Extensions Expire on Wednesday, March 31**

Drivers with commercial licenses are reminded that all state extensions for these licenses will expire March 31, 2021, and that the state Department of Transportation has stated that no further extensions will be given. If your license was scheduled to expire between March 16, 2020, and March 31, 2021, you need to renew your license no later than this Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Reminder: DCNR Grants Available for Community Parks, Recreation**

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is accepting applications for recreation and conservation projects until **April 14**. Local governments and recreation and conservation organizations may apply for the grants, which are funded through DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program.

Grants may be used to plan, acquire, or develop public parks, recreation areas, motorized and non-motorized trails, river conservation and access, streamside forest buffers, and open space conservation. To learn more, [click here](#). To view videos about grant requirements and how to apply, [click here](#).

### **DCNR Announces Return of Programming, Increased Occupancy**

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has announced that outdoor programming at state parks, as well as increased occupancy limits within park and state forest buildings, will return on April 4. Outdoor, in-person programs and volunteer workdays will resume with a 40-person limit. Visitors centers, offices, interpretive areas, and theaters will open with a 75% capacity. Masks and social distancing will continue to be required.

DCNR noted that state park visitations have increased by more than 1 million visitors a month since the start of the pandemic. Virtual and self-guided programs will continue to be offered. Large, DCNR-sponsored events remain canceled until further notice. [Click here](#) for more

### **National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day**

National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day honors all small business owners each year on March 29th. Small businesses are a vital part of the United States economy, and the critical role they play is sometimes overlooked. According to the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#), there are more than 27 million small businesses in the United States.

Consumers can show them their much-deserved appreciation by shopping locally and at small businesses. Some of these Mom and Pop shops are handed down from one generation to the next while others are new start-ups. "Mom and Pop" businesses offer superior customer service as the owners take personal pride in their operations as well as pride in their communities.

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## Learn

### [2021 Engineers Virtual Spring Seminar - 4/19 & 4/20/2021](#)

The 2021 Spring Township Engineer's Seminar is a 2-day on-line event held this year from 8:30 -11:30 a.m. the mornings of Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20, 2021. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.



### [2021 Solicitors Virtual Spring Seminar - 4/19/21](#)

This virtual, on-line seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.



### [20 Great Policies, Procedures, and Forms - Virtual - 4/26/21](#)

In this fun and face-paced workshop, you'll learn a variety of interesting policies and procedures -- from common sense to creative -- that are designed to enhance your community's day-to-day operations. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[20 Ways to Improve Your Public Meetings - Virtual - 4/26/21](#)**

Learn how to build a better meeting structure, prepare better meeting materials, improve communications with residents, and more! [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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